

17 MAR 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Follow-Up Contact with Officials of the National Urban League, Inc.

REFERENCE: Memo for the Record dtd 22 Nov 74, Subject: Contact with Mr. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Executive Director, National Urban League, Inc.

1. During my contact with Mr. Jordan during November 1974, he suggested that the appropriate Urban League official to discuss possible specific League assistance to the Agency's black professional recruitment effort was Mr. Mahlon T. Puryear, Director of the League's Economic Development Department. Accordingly, I made an appointment with Mr. Puryear for the afternoon of 4 December 1974 at his New York office at 477 Madison Avenue, 18th floor.*

2. Originally, [] DD/Pers/R&D, was scheduled to accompany me to facilitate follow-up of the League contact by the Office of Personnel. However, [] was obliged to remain in Washington because of an overriding commitment, and [] then Deputy Chief of the Recruitment DIVISION, joined me at the meeting with Mr. Puryear. Because I had advised Mr. Puryear of the purpose of the visit, he included Mrs. Ruth Allen King, head of their National Skills Bank, in the group.

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3. [] and I briefly explained the organization and mission of the Agency, provided some background materials on the subject and outlined the CT Program. Mr. Puryear was responsive and made the same general comment as Mr. Jordan had about the interest of some black professionals in careers in foreign affairs. He was favorably impressed when he was told that the Agency adjusts test interpretation for minority group membership and takes into account personal, social, cultural and other aspects of their background.

4. Mrs. King commented that her experience in trying to interest young blacks in a career with CIA had frequently produced these objections: (a) the processing time was too long--blacks generally did not have the financial means to

*This is a separate office from that of the National Headquarters of the League at 55 E. 52nd St.

endure a long period of applicancy; (b) the image of the Agency as a police or security-type organization deterred many potential applicants; and (c) some blacks were reluctant to relocate if they were settled in a particular city, had relatives there, etc.

5. In a separate conversation with Mrs. King after the discussion with Mr. Puryear had ended, I explained to her what the criteria were for selection for the CT Program. She responded by introducing me to Mr. William H. Edward, who is Director of Military and Veterans Affairs for the League, in the belief that he might be able to assist. It is Mr. Edward's office which screens high school candidates for the three service academies. Discussion of this activity, however, indicated that it was not applicable to screening candidates for the CT Program.

6. Mr. Puryear, Mrs. King and Mr. Edward were all very cordial, and a few notes about their backgrounds are appropriate. Mr. Puryear is a senior official who has been associated with the League for more than 30 years. Mrs. King has worked for the League for 43 years and plans to retire in 1975. Mr. Edward is in his 30s, is severely handicapped, is obliged to use a wheelchair, and is unable to stand up or shake hands. His questions about the Agency indicated a quick and penetrating intellect. He made clear his sympathy with the Agency's mission, and I would consider Mr. Edward a useful longer-range, working-level contact.



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